

WATCHUNG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
January 21, 2013

Present: Jean Forlano, Pam Lewis, Karen Pennett, Don Pote, Andy Stout & Jim Stout
Absent: Sondra Epstein

It was not clear who our Council Liaison would be for this year.

Chairperson, Jean Forlano at 7:30 PM, called the meeting to order.

Minutes:

November Minutes were approved with corrections

Reorganization: The meeting was started with reelection of officers
Jean Forlano will continue as Chairperson of the Watchung Environmental Commission
Karen Pennett will continue as Secretary

**** January Tree Report**

-1120 Johnston Drive New Construction, 41 trees to be removed 20 will be replaced.

-It was suggested that future tree reports include who is doing the construction: homeowners or general contractor.

-Extension of No Tree Permit Resolution. Borough Council extended the No Tree Permit for damaged and/or fallen trees due to Hurricane Sandy to January 15. No Tree Permit Resolution is in affect October 29 – January 15.

**** Planning Board Update**—Planning board was a reorganization meeting no applications were discussed

**** Watchung Green Team**—no meeting

****Miscellaneous**

-Pam researched SC Johnson Community Challenge with the director of the Somerset County Solid Waste, who looked in the Community Challenge program. The purpose of the Challenge is to get the public to increase their recycling. The Community earning the reward would receive grants for their local schools. According to Diana Vigalante in order to be a member of the “Challenge” there are membership fees and other miscellaneous fees. Due to the fees the Challenge did not seem economical for Watchung, but further research may be considered.

-Pam reported that trees that were taken down on Hill Hollow are causing water problems on neighboring properties. Pam will pursue with Arlene.

-Pam and Don will research ordinances that other towns have regarding size of homes and lot size. These ordinances would be used to possibly create a framework for Watchung. Borough Council would have to approve and enact the ordinance.

-Sustainable Jersey Silver Certification: Programs were discussed to gain points towards silver certification. One thought was to show a movie on the environment. Karen to check with scouts on how they ran previous movies at Valley View.

-Various correspondences reviewed

Next meeting: Monday February 25, 7:30 PM at Borough Hall.

Adjournments--With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Pennett, Recording Secretary,
Watchung Environmental Commission